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MYERS, GUSTAVUS. *History of the Supreme Court of the United States.* Pp. 823. Price, \$2.00. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr and Company, 1912.

Mr. Gustavus Myers, author of *History of the Great American Fortunes*, *History of Public Franchises in New York City*, etc., has here, in a spacious volume, given the history of the supreme court of the United States as he sees it. He presents a comprehensive history of the development of capitalist resources, power and tactics, and of the great and continuing conflict of classes, in order to show the influences so persistently operating upon the minds and acts of the justices of the supreme court throughout its entire history. These influences are not venal but class influences, and were all the more effective for the very reason that the justices in question were not open to pecuniarily dishonest practices. From training, association, interest and prejudice, submerged in a permeating class environment, a fixed state of mind results. Upon conditions that the ruling class finds profitable to its aims, and advantageous to its power, are built codes of morality as well as of law. These codes are the reflections and agencies of class interests.

The students in traditional history will find in the volume much material that will be new to them as well as much in method to criticise. Thus the author concludes that Jay resigned the chief justiceship of the United States supreme court solely in order that, by making a treaty with England, he might enhance his own financial interests and the pecuniary interests of his associates. All of this might be true, but at the best motives cannot be shown by implications.

A characteristic statement showing the phraseology and point of view of the author is: "Both Burr and Hamilton were engaged in extensive land grabbing. Hamilton in many different directions." He proves from many records that Burr and Hamilton were extensive land owners. Those who have always found it difficult to reconcile Hamilton the young radical, at the time of the beginning of the American Revolution, with Hamilton the reactionary, at the time of the adoption of the Constitution and following, can find ample explanation in the author's treatment of Hamilton's family alignments and his many financial interests. The author, always socialistic in his point of view, completes his seven hundred and eighty-six pages with the prophecy: "The next application of the 'rule of reason' will be made by the organized working class in its own interests to the end that it will expropriate its expropriators."

CLYDE L. KING.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

WALLACE, ALFRED R. *Social Environment and Moral Progress.* Pp. vi, 181. Price, \$1.25. New York: Cassell and Company, 1913.

This is a thought provoking little volume, which is likely to start many discussions. Dr. Wallace challenges the prevalent belief that there has been great advance in the realm of morality as a result of civilization. He points out many of the bad conditions at the present time, and seems to believe that through alcoholism, suicide, war, etc., we are falling far short of the ideals of our civilization. This represents the first part of the book.

The second part is theoretical, beginning with a discussion of natural selection among animals, proceeding to the influence of the mind as modifying selection, a survey of heredity and environment, with a survey of possible methods of improvement in the chapter entitled *Progress Through Selection*. In this he points out great dangers involved in any eugenics movement that would interfere with comparative freedom in the selecting of mates. He is much more favorably inclined towards what has been called negative eugenics—the elimination of the obviously unfit. Dr. Wallace has frequently been quoted as being pessimistic. This does not appear to be fair. He does not think that human nature is perfect but that "it is influenced by fundamental laws which under reasonably just and economic conditions will automatically abolish all these evils." He believes that a better educational system would in itself raise the average age of marriage; that educational and economic equality of the sexes would more nearly equalize their numbers, and that increase of brain work would automatically diminish fertility. Thus the whole social structure would be in better condition. Society, then, has created its own evil conditions, largely by over-emphasis in competition. "That system must therefore be radically changed into one of brotherly coöperation and coördination for the equal good of all."

The book deserves careful reading.

CARL KELSEY.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

WHITE, ANDREW D. *The First Hague Conference.* Pp. vi, 123. Boston: The World Peace Foundation, 1912.

CHOATE, JOSEPH H. *The Two Hague Conferences.* Pp. xiv, 109. Price, \$1.00. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press, 1913.

HULL, WILLIAM I. *The New Peace Movement.* Pp. ix, 216. Boston: The World Peace Foundation, 1912.

Those interested in the peace movement will welcome the reprint from Dr. White's interesting autobiography of those chapters dealing with his epochal work at the first Hague conference. These chapters form such a frank and intimate record of Dr. White's experience at the Hague in 1899 that they furnish a very valuable source of our knowledge of the inside workings of the conference, more particularly of the part played by Germany and the United States. However, they are so well known to students of the subject that an extended review of them is scarcely necessary.

The two lectures on the first and second Hague conferences which form the subject matter of Ambassador Choate's little volume entitled *The Two Hague Conferences*, have also considerable value, though they by no means compare in interest or importance with Dr. White's revelations. Their value is enhanced by Dr. Scott's introduction and the notes at the end of the volume.

A perusal of the sixteen addresses and essays by Dr. Hull published under the title *The New Peace Movement*, leaves various and somewhat conflicting impressions.